

Federation, serving as the executive director of public policy before being appointed executive vice president in 2018.

Dale has maintained an exemplary reputation for decades. He will be sincerely missed as he enters retirement, and his positive contributions to agriculture policy will be remembered for many years.

Congratulations, Dale, on your successful career. Best wishes to you in your next chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MASTER SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER NEAL HOUSER

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Master Sergeant Christopher Neal Houser as Tennessee's Second District's Veteran of the Month.

He served in the United States Air Force during the Gulf war, the war on terrorism, and the Cold War.

Chris was raised in Clinton, Tennessee, and graduated from Clinton High School in 1980. He then attended Tennessee Tech University, where he received his degree in business administration and business management. On July 23, 1982, he enlisted in the Tennessee Air National Guard, and he served his country for over 31 years, Mr. Speaker, with the 134th Air Refueling Wing as a personnel specialist.

Outside of his military life, Chris was known as a bit of a hometown hero for all the time that he gave to Blount County student athletics. He coached Little League baseball, youth basketball, and football, and he volunteered at William Blount High School to work with the baseball and softball teams as the field guy for over 17 years. The softball field is now named after him in honor of his many years of volunteer service.

Just a few weeks ago, on May 24, 2022, unfortunately, Chris passed away after a 9-year battle with lung cancer, with his family by his side. I offer my condolences to his wife of 36 years, Donna; his children, Drew, Jessica, and Jennifer; his mother, Jean; and the many other family members and friends who loved him dearly right up to the end.

It is my honor to stand here today and commemorate Chris' lifetime of service to his country and to his community by naming him as Tennessee's Second District's Veteran of the Month.

DEMOCRATS SIMPLY DID NOT LISTEN

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, our country is in an inflation crisis caused by the Biden administration's failed leftwing, progressive policies.

We have families who can't find baby formula for their newborns, grocery stores with empty shelves, workers filling up their gas tanks for twice what they paid 2 years ago, and farmers paying triple for fertilizer compared to two harvests ago.

H.R. 7606, the bill that passed the House last week, will do nothing to combat these crises in the immediate future. Instead, Congress should consider a bill introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), my friend and ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee.

H.R. 8069, the Reducing Farm Input Costs and Barriers to Production Act, will work to immediately combat rising food and fuel costs and has the support from our farmers, ranchers, and producers.

However, once again, Democrats passed a bill that doesn't fix our problems, nor does it increase our domestic food or fuel production, and they blame everything on Republicans. Let the record show we offered real solutions, and Democrats simply did not listen.

COST OF LIVING IS MORE THAN REPORTED

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is directed to the press as much as to the Chair and whoever is listening at home.

Everybody knows we have a lot of inflation. We are supposed to repeat again and again that inflation was at 8.6 percent in May, which is the highest it has been in 40 years. The press should report that there is no way inflation is only 8.6 percent.

Housing is listed as going up 5.5 percent. Have you talked to any landlords? Have you talked to any builders? There is a contorted way that you arrive at that 5.5 percent. That number should be more like 15 to 20 to 25 percent.

Talk to some car dealers. See if they think the cost of used cars has gone up only 16.1 percent in the last year. That number should be 30 percent.

We should not let the administration get away with such low numbers. I call upon the American press to do a little bit of research for once and tell us what the real cost of living has gone up in this country over the last year. It is way more than 8.6 percent.

RELEASE ALEX DRUEKE AND ANDY HUYNH

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to assert the sovereignty of the United States of America, to applaud the bipartisan commitment to the Ukrainians who are fighting for democracy, and to acknowledge Alex Drueke

and Andy Huynh, who are fighting as volunteers in the Ukrainian Army and have now been captured by the enemy.

The enemy wants to call them a name that I refuse to say on the floor of the House. They are, in fact, volunteers, and they should be subject to the international obligations that Russia must adhere to and must look at the conventions that may be relevant. Their lives must be protected. They are soldiers who desired to fight for democracy.

I am proud of them, as I am of the Americans who are held around the world falsely, in particular Paul Whelan and Brittney Griner, who are held as hostages in Russia. They are wrongly held, and I ask that we pursue this as Americans and the American Government to help release Brittney Griner, release Paul Whelan, stop the false judicial system and legal system of Russia, and bring our Americans home.

We should not leave Alex Drueke and Andy Huynh on the battlefield. We need to protect them as a sovereign nation.

REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE'S BLUEPRINT TO SAVE AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, America is in crisis. Inflation is at its highest in four decades. Drugs, weapons, and all other manner of contraband, along with hundreds of thousands of unvetted migrants, are pouring over our southern border with almost no resistance. Our national debt is over \$30 trillion, a sum of money that most people cannot even begin to comprehend.

Suffice to say, the past 18 months of Democratic rule have been a disaster. The American people are sick and tired of their government recklessly spending their tax dollars while families struggle to put food on the table and fill up their gas tanks.

Can you blame them? Families across the country are sitting at home trying to make ends meet while the Federal Government runs around and spends their money like it is going out of style.

President Biden often likes to tout his understanding of kitchen-table economics. However, the so-called budget that the President produced a few months ago never balances and adds

trillions of dollars to our national debt over the next 10 years. There isn't a single kitchen table in the country where you can spend more than you make year after year and survive financially.

One of Speaker PELOSI's most famous phrases is: Show me your budget, and I will show you your values. It is plain to see that Democrats care little for financial responsibility and a strong American economy. They won't even draft a budget.

I have been in Congress 4 years, and under Speaker PELOSI's leadership, the Democrats have not created a single budget in the House Budget Committee. If Congress continues down this path, we will add \$15.1 trillion to the debt this decade, \$24.2 trillion in the 2030s, and \$41.8 trillion in the 2040s. These are incomprehensible numbers.

It is long past time to return to a state of fiscal stability. That is where the Republican Study Committee's budget comes in. Our Blueprint to Save America isn't just hyperbole. It is a no-nonsense plan that slashes spending, reduces deficits, and bolsters our economy, all things that the President's budget fails to do.

It is the most pro-life budget that the RSC has ever produced. It ensures the protection of Americans' constitutional rights. It solidifies our national security and secures our southern border. It saves Medicare and Social Security from insolvency.

While the President's budget increases spending to \$73 trillion and taxes to \$58 trillion, our budget decreases spending by \$6.7 trillion, all while balancing in just 7 years. This is exactly what our country needs right now.

Tonight, we are going to hear from the hardworking men and women who helped create this budget and who are committed to putting these policies into action next year.

I thank all the members of the Budget and Spending Task Force for all of their extremely hard work over the past months, as well as Chairman JIM BANKS for trusting me with chairing this task force for a second year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER), my friend from the 12th District, a member of the Education and Labor Committee, and a member of our task force.

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Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time and for his hard work.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a year-and-a-half of President Biden and Washington Democrats' disastrous tax-and-spend policies, and American families are feeling the effects of rising inflation in their paychecks, at the gas pumps, and in the grocery store.

Instead of working to eliminate wasteful government spending, the President's 2023 budget calls for the highest sustained spending burden in

American history, \$73 trillion over 10 years, all at the expense of our children and grandchildren, who will be forced to pay for this outrageous spending and debt.

Going to Speaker PELOSI's "Show me your budget, and I will show you what you value," I have my granddaughter with me tonight. I value her future. I value the fact that she is not going to have to pay for this spending, that she will be able to keep more of the money she earns instead of having the government take it to pay for Speaker PELOSI's and President Biden's liberal agenda.

The Republican Study Committee's budget is a departure from Democrats' irresponsible policies and a return to fiscal sanity for American families.

Republicans have built a comprehensive plan that balances the Federal budget in just 7 years, works to eliminate waste, and enables Americans to keep more of their hard-earned money.

Growing up in America, raising a family, and running a business taught me that budgets matter.

After reading President Biden's 2023 budget, it is clear he doesn't have a clue on how to budget responsibly. It is time we stop leaving financial disaster for the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman HERN and my colleagues on the Republican Study Committee for their work in putting forth a responsible budget that meets the needs of the American people, places the American people first, and doesn't cater to the wishes of Joe Biden and NANCY PELOSI.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his hard work over the last 6 months to arrive at this budget. It is not a conservative budget; it is an all-of-America budget. It is what all Americans have to do, create a budget.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), another member of the task force and a member of the Committee on Natural Resources, from Wisconsin's Seventh District.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership and giving me the opportunity to speak here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, while it is not surprising that Congress' budget process is a total and utter failure, the good news is that there are solutions to cut down on excessive spending, balance our budget, and prevent the world's largest economy from self-destructing.

The American people know this. When you go back home and talk to the American people, they know what is going on here is wrong. They know that the family checkbook only goes so far. Choices have to be made. They know the American family's checkbook out here in Washington, D.C., should live under the same constraints.

The solution is not to propose a budget with the highest sustained levels of spending since World War II, as President Biden has done, or to spend taxpayers' dollars at a faster pace than

at any point in history, as Congress has done the past 2 years. The solution is to stop spending like there is no tomorrow and be fiscally responsible.

With inflation at a 40-year high, gas prices shattering new records, and home prices surging, as the gentleman from Oklahoma said, I believe every effort must be made to rein in wasteful Washington spending and ensure that taxpayer dollars are not being thrown down the drain.

Simply put, instead of spending money as fast as Joe Biden leaves for a Delaware vacation, it is time for fiscal responsibility in Washington. This includes implementing good-government reforms, like balancing our budget for the first time in over 20 years, which this budget by the RSC does.

I thank the chairman for including a piece of legislation that I introduced called the Agriculture Civil Rights and Equality Act, ACRE.

You might remember last year, Democrats in the American Rescue Plan provided billions in debt relief assistance to some farmers, while excluding others, based entirely on the color of their skin. That is detestable. That is un-American.

The ACRE Act will ensure that this never happens again by explicitly barring the USDA from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to any person, in whole or in part, based on race. Taxpayers shouldn't be forced to finance unfair, unconstitutional racial quota systems.

One of the main reasons I ran for this office is the same reason that I ran in 2010. In Wisconsin, we had a \$3 billion deficit. We all remember, after the 2008 election, the policies that were put in place in the ensuing 2 years were disastrous for America. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? The same thing is a rewind from back in that period of time.

I told my constituents we can fix the budget problems we had in Wisconsin. Some people said: Yeah, we hear that all the time. I said: You give us a decade, and we will get it done. We did exactly that.

Over the three terms that I sat on the budget writing committee in the State of Wisconsin, if you look at where their budget is now as a result of the little bit of work that I contributed to, along with my colleagues in the State legislature, we fixed those budget problems in Wisconsin. Now there is the largest rainy day fund in the history of Wisconsin. This past budget returned \$2 billion to the taxpayers of the State. That is fiscal responsibility.

We can do the same here in Washington, D.C., but it is going to require the will to do it. We can do it over the next decade, as the chairman said. We get to balance in 7 years here. This is what the American people are looking for. They want us to be fiscally responsible because it will lead to more opportunity and prosperity here in America and ensure American liberty for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge both Democrats and Republicans to say "yes" to the

RSC budget, because it is good for America.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Wisconsin for his words.

What you just heard is what most of America experiences in our individual families, our businesses, our cities, and our States. They have to balance their budget. It is hard work. It doesn't know any partisanship. It is constitutional and has to be done.

One of the first, primary things we should be doing as Members of Congress is being good stewards of American taxpayer dollars. But what I fear is that after people have been here for a period of time we lose sight of that. It is not our money; it is the American people's money.

We need to be accountable to that. We need to not be running up \$30 trillion debts and another \$15 trillion on the horizon with the President's budget, the only Democrat budget that has been put out, that increases the debt to \$45 trillion in the next 10 years, assuming he can get \$7 trillion in additional taxes out of small businesses and individuals in America by allowing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act's tax cuts to expire.

The American people deserve better. We in Congress need to work hard together.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), my dear friend from Pennsylvania's 13th District, who is on the Energy and Commerce Committee and a fellow classmate of mine.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for holding this incredibly important Special Order, and I thank him for yielding.

Since day 1 of his Presidency, Joe Biden has chosen to weaponize his power to attack the energy industry and raise the price of gasoline for Pennsylvania drivers. This impact financially, for every Pennsylvanian, and in fact, for every American citizen, is being felt tonight as we hold this Special Order.

By canceling the Keystone XL pipeline, by canceling new drilling leases, and by suggesting that the energy beneath the feet of my constituents is not an acceptable source of power, President Biden has turned his back on American energy. Sadly, he has turned his back on the American people. Because of the President's policies, America right now is drilling less oil than before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To counter this war on American energy, I am proud to be working with my colleagues to introduce the Blueprint to Save America and to help return our Nation to energy dominance. Not just energy independence, but energy dominance.

It is time to reverse President Biden's executive actions to stop new drilling. It is time to produce the coal, the oil, the natural gas, and the Marcellus shale that is needed to power our cities, our communities, and our grids.

I thank the gentleman for holding this Special Order tonight to bring attention to the roadmap that we have built to return our country to that needed energy dominance.

President Ronald Reagan once said that we maintain "peace through strength." By rebuilding our energy infrastructure and once again becoming a net energy exporter, we can help our allies while at the same time lowering the price of energy right here in America.

I look forward to continuing to advocate for this budget that will help my constituents back home in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my colleague, Representative HERN, for holding this Special Order.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania for his words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), a dear friend of mine, somebody that knows a lot about budgets and finances in his personal life, a member of the Financial Services Committee, and a longtime study of what it takes to balance a budget in America.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN), the chairman of our task force, and all of the members of the task force, for coming together and showing the American people that Congress can debate, analyze, think through, and consider what it takes to balance our budget. KEVIN HERN has delivered that leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of the Republican Study Committee's budget proposal for fiscal year 2023. I am proud to be a contributing member of the Republican Study Committee.

This RSC budget would not only rein in reckless spending, but it would also balance the Nation's budget over the next decade.

By making President Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent, this budget would provide hardworking American families with immediate relief, something we desperately need amid Joe Biden's highest inflation in four decades.

This budget also works toward strengthening our national security, starting with the crisis at our southwest border. Last month, Mr. Speaker, Customs and Border Protection reported that 234,416 illegal migrant encounters occurred along our border, the highest 1-month total ever recorded. This budget would restore the Trump-era policies that secured our border and kept our communities safe, preventing startling statistics like that one I just noted.

This budget is sensible, it is realistic, and it is beneficial for all of our American families.

I am pleased that two of my legislative items that I have placed priority on in this Congress were included in this budget package: The Price Stability Act and the Social Security Disability Insurance Return to Work Act.

First, the Price Stability Act, which I was pleased to introduce earlier this year alongside my good friend and colleague, BYRON DONALDS, from Florida. At a time when the American people are currently spending an additional \$460 a month, Mr. Speaker, nearly \$5,000 more this year than people were spending last year to keep up with President Biden's inflation, the rising cost of gas at the pump, and groceries at the store, this bill would have the Federal Reserve focus on a single mandate, that of price stability, concentrating on keeping prices down, and preventing inflation from stealing from American families.

The second bill, the Social Security Disability Insurance Return to Work Act, which I reintroduced this year, would restructure the Social Security Administration's disability classification system to provide further opportunities to individuals with disabilities who can and want to get back to work. That is important, because too many people go on our Social Security disability system and don't get back to the workforce. This provides them financial incentives, training, and opportunity to go back to work, something our workforce and our employers desperately need. It gives dignity to those who can get back into the workforce.

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These policies would both reduce government spending while ensuring that we put the needs of the American people first.

I thank the Republican Study Committee chairman, JIM BANKS, Task Force Chairman HERN, for their hard work and leadership in developing this budget. This commonsense legislative agenda combats inflation while supporting a healthy economy. It works for the betterment of our families long-term.

I am proud of the provisions that were included in the budget. I am happy to express my support for the budget and for the work of the task force.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas for his words and for his personal knowledge of how the budget is so important to all the American people.

You have heard a lot from my colleagues about pieces of legislation to be included in this budget. Some 203 pieces of legislation by some 82 Members of the Republican Party have been included in this budget to design and develop and produce a balanced budget for all Americans. All Americans sitting at their table, they don't look and see first if they are Democrat or Republican. They don't care about politics when it comes to spending.

Members of Congress talk about how they care about the least of us in our economy across America. If we cared, we would sit down and work together to produce a balanced budget, one like we haven't seen in over 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE), my colleague

from Utah's First Congressional District, and an outstanding freshman member on the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman HERN for organizing this Special Order tonight and for his leadership on the Republican Study Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I frequently reach out to my constituents and conduct polling, if you will, on what are the issues that matter most to them. And at the top of the list, every single time, is debt and deficit. It is constantly debt and deficit. I know that is on the minds of many Americans, but particularly in Utah, where we are so fiscally smart that we have a balanced budget, and we have a rainy day fund. We are still the most philanthropic State in volunteer time and dollars than anywhere else in the Nation. But we care so deeply about being smart fiscally that what I ultimately take from this, and as I look back on the last 20 or so years of our inability to do this, Americans need confidence that their Congress, that their government can actually do something practical and reasonable. And that is what we have here in front of us, is a plan.

Americans need to know that there is a plan to be able to inject fiscal responsibility again into what they have not seen too long.

Like everywhere in the Nation, Utah families are burdened with painfully inflated prices at the gas pump, grocery store, and more. The average American household is paying hundreds more than they would for the same goods that they purchased just a year ago.

Despite repeated Republican warnings of excessive Federal spending and what it would do to our economy, Democrats have continued to vote for massive spending bills. As a father to four young boys, I know we must provide for the next generation a more stable economic outlook for their financial success. It is why I ran for Congress.

However, achieving a balanced budget after over 20 years of consistent deficit spending is a very tall task. And when I decided to run for Congress and I made this a key part of my platform, I knew it was going to be a very tall task.

On top of increasing Medicare and Social Security spending, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that over the next 10 years interest costs will total \$8.1 trillion. The longer we don't address this issue, the larger the hill we must climb. Even so, leaders from both parties have historically come to the table to build solutions, and we must rise to the occasion.

The Republican Study Committee has worked dutifully to chart our path forward. This plan is outlined in the Blueprint to Save America. This roadmap provides a fiscally sound path to balancing our budget in 7 years, protecting our border, bolstering our Na-

tion's defense, expanding workforce opportunities, making the successful Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent, and so much more.

This budget is—in the words of Congressman HERN—for all Americans. All Americans—not just Republicans—need a balanced budget. This issue matters to Utahns, which is why I convened a debt and deficit task force in my own district to get their input and have spent countless hours as I have worked with my colleagues to know what exactly we can do going forward.

We must be committed to reversing our economic policies that are hurting Americans and get us on the right track.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, as we look at inflation, and we heard one of my colleagues talk about it earlier, it says it is 8.6 percent inflation caused by excessive spending. We have heard this from many of the past treasurers under the Obama administration. We have heard the current Secretary of the Treasury admit that she got it wrong last year, that excessive spending drove the inflation that we are seeing today.

The problem is that most Americans don't believe the 8.6 percent. I mean when you look at gas prices up over 100 percent since Biden took office. If you look at hot dogs—something as simple as an all-American hot dog—up 64 percent; milk up 32 percent. And the numbers go on and on and on.

The American people are struggling. We can do better. We must do better. We must produce a balanced budget, get it on the floor to have it voted on.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), my dear friend, a member of the Committee on Financial Services, a very innovative member.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, KEVIN HERN, from the great State of Oklahoma not only for his leadership on the Republican Study Committee Budget and Spending Task Force—ably chairing that committee—but also as an advocate for more domestic energy production to deal with this energy crisis.

Like your constituents in Oklahoma, my constituents in rural Kentucky are feeling the pain. I was just with some farmers in Fleming County, Kentucky, on Friday when we were back in the district. And one of the farmers stood up, and he said: I don't know where you get your numbers in Washington, Congressman, but 8.6 percent doesn't sound right for us in Fleming County.

It is more than twice that. It is painful to fill up the diesel in our tractor. It is impossible for us to fill up our trucks to get around to move our produce. This is not 8.6 percent. You all don't know what the real number is and how it affects real Americans.

That is how bad this inflation crisis is. But I rise in strong support of this Republican Study Committee's proposed Federal budget. Our Nation is

over \$30 trillion in debt. This debt crisis threatens the long-term prosperity of every American. It is that debt, and it is that overspending, Mr. Speaker, that has helped to usher in this historic inflation crisis that is crushing my constituents in Fleming County and so many other middle-class Americans across this country.

The RSC budget restores fiscal responsibility to Washington by balancing the Federal budget within 10 years and rescuing America from bankruptcy, stopping the spending binge in this town.

Let's be clear, we will never balance the Federal budget if Democrats continue their spending spree. We will never balance the budget continuing this reckless deficit-producing fiscal policy and threatening tax hikes in this "build back better" calamity that fails to raise revenue, but instead would crush economic growth and actually diminish the tax base.

We will also never balance the budget if the Biden administration continues its inexplicable war on American energy, which is key to economic growth, key to reducing the deficit. That is why I commend RSC Budget and Spending Task Force chairman, KEVIN HERN, for including my legislation in the budget, the Fair Access to Banking Act.

This legislation, the Fair Access to Banking Act, protects key American industries, such as energy producers, from discrimination by banks and lenders who politicize access to capital to satisfy the radical agenda of climate extremists.

And here is the irony: We all care about the environment, especially farmers. We care about the environment. They are the ultimate environmentalists. But what sense does it make to deprive financing to the very energy companies that can innovate our way to solutions to the climate issue.

When President Biden was sworn into office, gas prices averaged \$2.36 across the country. This month, gas prices reached \$5 nationally for the first time—and they are on their way to \$6 a gallon.

In less than 2 years, our Nation went from energy dominant to energy desperate. And yet, the Biden administration continues to push ESG investments and regulations such as the SEC's new climate risk disclosure rule designed to choke off investment in energy production.

The Biden administration for sure is blocking construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, another energy infrastructure. It is halting new lease sales for oil and gas. It is stonewalling over 4,400 permits to drill. It is thwarting new large-scale refineries. And this has all contributed to constraining energy supply, contributing to inflation.

But ground zero in this war against domestic energy production is the Biden administration's weaponization

of financial regulation to redirect capital away from fossil energy. The European financial sector, Wall Street banks, large, woke asset managers have all started the trend of politicizing capital allocation through the environmental, social, and governance movement. But the Biden administration's Security and Exchange Commission is now making matters worse by proposing a regulation that would force every public company to disclose reams of immaterial and unreliable information about the Green House gas emissions arising from their operations, the producers of energy they consume, and even the activities of their suppliers and customers.

This 534-page monstrosity marks the transformation of the SEC from an independent agency dedicated to investor protection to an unaccountable and politicized bureaucracy intent on advancing radical environmental policy over which it has neither jurisdiction nor competency.

Not only does this regulation discriminate against affordable, reliable energy by redirecting capital away from the American energy sector, it directly conflicts with the SEC's mission to protect investors. While asset managers continually prioritize ESG funds, the fees for those funds are actually, on average, 43 percent higher than nonESG funds.

Stocks and many ESG-related exchange-traded funds have elevated price-to-earnings multiples precisely because investment returns are sacrificed for nonpecuniary factors and policy objectives like social justice, diversity quotas, and lower carbon emissions.

It is time for us to stand up for American energy dominance. It is time for us to stand up for the American energy sector. It is time for us to stand up to retail investors who depend on returns instead of some woke political agenda that, frankly, they don't care about.

My farmers in Fleming County depend on returns. They depend on affordable electricity. Washington is out of touch with the reality and the hardships of American savers and American workers who can't afford Biden's inflation. That is why we need this budget.

Now more than ever we must defend and encourage investments in American energy production to lower costs for Americans at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, the duel visions for the future of America on this issue could not be clearer. On the one hand, Congressional Democrats are doubling down on a dangerous agenda in the middle of a generational energy crisis at cost to millions of middle-class Americans. Out of touch.

On the other hand, Republicans are renewing our commitment through the Fair Access to Banking provision contained in this budget to require lending to be based on risk-based metrics, not on the woke politics of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with my Republican colleagues in sup-

port of this budget. I am proud to stand with Americans who depend on energy independence and energy dominance and affordable, reliable energy.

I ask all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with the American people, not with woke Wall Street, not with large asset managers who put politics ahead of returns. Vote for the Republican Study Committee budget.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership of my friend from Oklahoma.

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Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very poignant words on where America is right now and our ability to, once again, return to energy dominance if we just get out of the way.

We were there some 16 months ago, 18 months ago, and we saw energy prices at the pump at \$2.39. All of America needs to hear that: \$2.39 until policies of the Biden administration came on the scene. Now, we are over \$5 across America, with \$6 on the near horizon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HERN of Oklahoma and the Republican Study Committee's Budget Task Force for their diligent work in putting together this year's Republican Study Committee budget. Thank God we have a budget. This important document lays out a road map to restore fiscal sanity in America.

We are in a dire fiscal state. We here in Congress know it, and the American people, more importantly, know it as well. President Biden and Speaker PELOSI's reckless spending has led to 40-year high inflation, proving once again that we simply cannot spend our way to prosperity.

Our national debt has grown by \$7 trillion since the COVID pandemic began. Today, it totals more than \$30 trillion.

I have a wonderful constituent who puts the debt amount on his building every single day on a main thoroughfare, a guy named Frank Suits, who is a great American. He puts it out there just so the people know how much we are spending and how this isn't making us prosperous, especially in New York.

This is larger than our gross domestic product. In the face of this sobering reality, what does President Biden propose? Spending even more. His proposed budget increases spending by over 66 percent over 10 years and calls for \$73 trillion—with a t—in new spending. Under President Biden's plan, the United States will reach the highest sustained spending limit in our Nation's history.

This is not how we jump-start an economy, control runaway inflation, and deliver for the American people. The budget proposed by the Republican Study Committee takes a different approach. It focuses on reining in wasteful spending, balancing our budget for once, and helping those in need while

living within our means and focusing on balancing the budget within 7 years.

The Republican Study Committee budget also includes a bill I introduced, the Transparency and COVID-19 Expenditures Act. This important legislation would require a full audit of and report on Federal spending during the pandemic. With countless reports of fraud, waste, and abuse, Americans have a right to know how their tax dollars are being spent, how they were spent, and if they were spent the way they were intended.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that this bill is included in the Republican Study Committee budget, further demonstrating the Republican Study Committee's commitment to transparency, accountability, fiscal responsibility, and just plain good governance.

Inflation in the United States continues to outpace much of the developed world. It is clear to me and to the American people that this isn't Putin's price hike. It is Biden's price hike.

Rather than doubling down on failed policies of the past and spending even more of your money, our money, it is time for Congress to turn around this ship, restore fiscal sanity to Washington, and put our Nation back on a path to economic prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Congressman HERN for his leadership and especially his leadership on energy. What a lot of people don't realize about New York State is we have among the richest shale reserves, the Marcellus and Utica Shale, that we can't touch because of New York's failed policies.

We could bring economic prosperity. We could bring national security, energy security, to our Nation just from New York State and really just bring our State around. That is something that we are fighting in New York.

We hope with your leadership out in Oklahoma and across this Nation, working with the Republican Study Committee members, which I am so proud to be part of this great group, that we finally have a budget. We are putting out a plan. We are telling the American people that we have a plan, and we have a plan to win. We will make sure that the American people come back and that America sees the greatness it once had.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HERN for doing these Special Orders, for highlighting this plan, for taking a leading role. We are grateful, and we certainly could use a dose of prosperity in upstate New York.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York. It is refreshing for all of America to hear that New York cares about America. We hear so many times that nobody cares. It is so refreshing to hear your conservative values about something as simple as a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), a member of the Agriculture Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He is from another

State where we always assume that nobody cares about fiscal responsibility in America.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. HERN's strong effort in helping shepherd our budget concept through the RSC to get back to fiscal responsibility and make sure it is on the front burner.

I am also pleased to follow my good colleague from New York, too. You have California and New York, and if you throw in Illinois, you don't see a whole lot of conversation coming out that you want the country to emulate as far as fiscal responsibility. I hope that is a bit of a breath of fresh air.

We are looking at the situation we are in right now as a country. It is just unbelievable, in this last 15, 16, 18 months, just how far it has turned upside down. We can't blame it all on COVID. We have to look at the policies that have been put in place.

Yes, we did spend a lot of money in Washington, D.C., on the COVID-era problems. Some of it is justified. Some of it is completely out of control.

There are still COVID dollars sitting in little pots somewhere that people are envying and wanting to turn into things that are completely unrelated, just make it slush-fund-type stuff. That is not right because these are the American people's dollars. This is the American people's debt.

Unfortunately, we are just adding debt to it. We don't really have sustained income to back up the money we have been borrowing from the future on this. When you couple that with the inflation that we are dealing with now, when we are looking at interest rates that are edging up in order to basically try, essentially, to put the brakes on government spending, that is what has driven this.

The higher numbers for interest rates, for payments on American debt, are going to devour our ability to budget on things that we actually do want to do and care about around here. If the interest rates and interest payments are so high, we can't do the elective part of our national budgeting. That is going to be horrendous for the American people.

Mr. HERN, when we are looking at the overall inflation picture with the numbers we are talking about earlier, 8.6 percent, we know it is a lot higher. I can echo what Mr. BARR was saying a while ago. My farmers—I am a farmer myself in my real life—we are not seeing a mere 8 percent on fertilizer, diesel, parts, tires, service calls, on everything. It is a much higher number than that.

My family grows rice and has been doing it for nearly 100 years. My colleagues and my neighbors have been doing the same thing. How are we going to afford to be able to put food on the table for the American people that is affordable? I just don't see that. With what you are dealing with in Oklahoma on energy—your energy helps us.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, it is 45 percent of the economy in Oklahoma. The Biden administration and the Democrats have made—it is very well-known. The President has said time and time again, and he said it just in the last week, that the high gas prices in America, and that Americans are suffering, are part of the grand transition plan off of fossil fuels to electric vehicles and others.

Yet, in polling, when you ask the young Americans today where they think electricity comes from, the response is the wall, not knowing how electricity is actually generated in our generation plants around the country. The fact that our grid can't even supply what they are proposing to quickly convert our country to, and would destroy economies throughout our Nation, it is really a tragedy to see what has happened.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is fascinating that he would say that. You plug it into the wall.

I just saw a recent interview with a major figure with a major car manufacturer introducing and talking about their electric vehicles. They were questioned at that press conference: Where is the power coming from to charge this electric car?

Well, from that building right over there.

Okay. It is a building, but it is not a generation plant.

Well, I don't really know.

Another person in the group answered and said: Well, this is powered by a source that is about 90 percent coal-driven.

I am not against coal. I think coal is great. It has powered our country for many decades. It is extremely important and shouldn't just be phased out. It is still at least 35 percent.

The naivety of a major manufacturer not understanding that the electricity has to come from somewhere, and it is going to have to be somehow reasonably priced in order to make it somehow work for this big dream they have of electrifying everything, it is unbelievable what the people are going to face.

As Mr. HERN mentioned, President Biden called it the incredible transition. The people I know, the regular folks, haven't been asked if they want to transition to electric vehicles or an electric stove or anything else. They want to just stick with what they have because you are looking at the price of electric vehicles, which are \$50,000, \$60,000, \$70,000. The price is bumping up, and they have to recall them because things aren't working quite right.

We are force-feeding something just because government can mandate and pass a law that—hey, we are just going to require that you do it. Well, the market and technology don't always keep up with the whims of a dream that somebody would have in a bureaucracy.

Phase them in, but we are looking at an issue that is being force-fed in the

Biden plan to have an incredible transition. It is incredibly painful to the American public.

That is why the direction that the RSC budget is trying to go is to achieve balance finally. If we are going to service more and more debt at a higher interest rate, and we keep adding the numbers, as my colleague from New York was talking about—if the Biden plan calls for \$73 trillion of increased spending over what we are already doing at a deficit over the next 10 years, we have big trouble.

Government doesn't always do that well with a dollar spent. In the hands of the American people, they are going to make the best decisions for their families on: Do they want to upgrade their car? Do they need to add a room to their house for an expanded family? Are they going to redo their garage or redo their roof? Maybe they are even going to take a vacation if they can afford the \$7 gas in California to run an RV and go see Yellowstone or something.

It is amazing how this place continues to think that the massive deficit spending is going to somehow benefit the economy. It doesn't work that way. Inflation drives higher prices to the end-users, driven by government spending. We have to get it under control.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. HERN's work is really stellar on trying to put this out there. This should really be non-partisan, Republicans and Democrats. The blueprint for this would be back in the mid-1990s when we achieved a balanced budget, I believe it was 4 years in a row, with President Clinton coming to the table and working with Newt Gingrich and Senator Dole and others on actually passing four balanced budgets in a row.

That is credit everybody can take for having a strong economy at the time. I think it would still be a legacy of the Reagan and Bush years, where we put things back on track of having an income that they benefited from in that context.

Mr. HERN, what do you see as far as that blueprint of balancing back then as something we can emulate here?

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I had the very great fortune of being introduced to politics by the late Senator Tom Coburn.

When he was running for Senate in 2004, he quickly gained the title of "Doctor No" because he was always pushing for responsible spending. He wasn't against spending; he said we just should pay for it. He wasn't against helping people; he said we should just pay for it like you do at home, like you do in your business, like you do in your cities or your States.

He was ridiculed by many Members over his time in the Senate because he always pushed for fiscal conservatism, fiscal responsibility for American taxpayer dollars.

In 2004, when he ran for Senate, and he spoke about this on the campaign

trail, the national debt was \$7.3 trillion. Here we are, 18 years later, and we are approaching \$31 trillion. I would say he understood a little bit about being responsible with taxpayer dollars.

As you just alluded to, there should be no pride in either one of the parties taking this acknowledgment of having a balanced budget. It should be just what we do as Congress.

This should be a nonconversation. We should produce a balanced budget, as we did under Newt Gingrich's leadership. As he just acknowledged this week, it is time for us to return to the era of the 4 years where we had balanced budgets and a divided government, where the House and the Senate were Republicans and the White House was the Democrat.

President Clinton knew it was the right thing to do. He knew that we had to be more responsible for taxpayer dollars and joined up and created a bipartisan budget that lasted until the attack on us in 2001. We have to get back to that.

Our Nation is under attack by the debt load that we are having. The interest on our debt, much of which we will pay to China because that is who we are getting our money from, is overtaking us. In the next 4 years, the spending on our mandatory interest on our debt will surpass what we spend on protecting this great Nation and the support of our men and women in uniform.

As we look at this, I just want to thank my colleagues from California, New York, and across this great Nation who have worked on this issue, not just on this budget and spending task force, but on this issue. The very core of who they are and why they came to Congress was to be responsible to the American taxpayers, not just to the ones who elected them but to all Americans, Democrat, Republican, to be fiscally responsible for their money, their hard-earned money that they make back home. They go to work every day and send tax dollars up to Congress. We have to do better.

□ 2015

The American taxpayers are much more responsible with their dollars in their pockets than we are here in Washington, D.C. We need to return the American taxpayers' dollars back to them. We need to be less on the spending side and more on acknowledging that American taxpayers are smart. They will spend their money in their communities better than we will. That is why we need to rebalance our government.

So as I hear from constituents back home, they are worried that no one in Washington cares about our spending anymore. They are worried that there is no one left—even Republicans—who care about balancing the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you I do. You heard the Members tonight. You heard my friend from California talk about

how he cares. He has cared since he got here, and all the members on the Republican Study Committee care.

Balancing the budget isn't a conservative idea. This isn't a budget just for one party. This budget is our blueprint to save all Americans—all Americans—not just Republicans. We are not excluding Democrats. This is all Americans.

When Congress spends less, the American people have more. That is at the center of what we do, what we are doing, and what we are here to talk about.

I thank everybody, again, for coming and speaking tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise as the anchor of the CBC Special Order addressing Caribbean American Heritage Month and to welcome my colleagues to the floor to be able to engage in a very important and provocative discussion.

Let me just say that last weekend, in fact, yesterday, was the national holiday, the Juneteenth independence day. All over America this commemoration brought about knowledge, understanding, jubilation, and honor. So we are delighted to be on the floor today to, in fact, provide an opportunity to expand and to talk about the heritage of so many in this Nation.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. It is my privilege now to, first of all, thank the Honorable JOYCE BEATTY, who is the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, for her continued efforts to ensure that the American people know our message and our power, know the work that we are doing, know the success that we are having, and also give us an opportunity to articulate the historical record of African Americans and those who have heritages from elsewhere.

I also take a moment to congratulate her for receiving the Juneteenth honors in Washington, D.C. last Thursday from the Juneteenth Foundation. It was a privilege not only to be with her and to acknowledge many others who received those honors but to be there on such a special night. She was well-deserving.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), who is the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate June as Caribbean American Heritage Month, I am proud to stand with our Special Order champion, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who herself is a woman of Caribbean heritage. She is from the great State of Texas, and her parents were immigrants from Jamaica. So I thank Congresswoman JACKSON LEE again for leading our power, our message, and also I thank her for acknowledging the great honor I received last week.

But, Mr. Speaker, the Congresswoman did not tell you that she too was on that same program as we commemorated and celebrated Juneteenth. She had the distinct honor to present an award to an icon, Maxwell, who is so great he only needs one name. To see her walk across that stage along with another one of our colleagues, Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON, made me proud to share the stage with her, our other colleagues, and so many icons who have fought for justice. That ties into what we are talking about today. You will hear many of our members come and talk about the beauty of diversity, culture, and their heritage.

I also want to take a moment to celebrate the dedication and all of the work of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE who led the effort to designate the month of June as Caribbean American Heritage Month. You will hear from her today, Mr. Speaker.

Congresswoman BARBARA LEE is always out in the forefront when we are talking about fighting for justice or when we are talking about making sure that we educate our constituency, and, yes, America, on any topic, but tonight this is a topic she knows all so well.

You see, Mr. Speaker, when I think about Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm in Congress and Members like vice-chair of the Congressional Black Caucus STEVEN HORSFORD, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, Congressman ANTHONY BROWN, Delegate STACEY PLASKETT, Congressman G. K. BUTTERFIELD, Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, and so many others, it is a rollcall of our Members of Caribbean heritage.

So when we think of this great legacy that we are leaving, Caribbean heritage is one of the most resilient and excellent, and it is full of the tenacity of the people who come to this Congress to be the voice for the people whom they know need us most.

The Congressional Black Caucus has been a longtime fighter for the protection of immigrants of color and for the rights of people of Caribbean descent, such as the Haitian Family Reunification Parole, or better known as HFRP program, which allows eligible United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to apply for parole for their family members in Haiti.